

Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 2, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privilege of the floor be granted to Wayne Boyles, Jimmy Broughton, Anne Chitwood, David Crotts, Sonja Damuth, Michele Dekonty, Pat Devine, Shane Fernando, Sherri Hupart, Joe Lanier, Matt Leggett, Judy Lovell, Ruthie McGinn, Langley Moretz, Elizabeth Parker, Mary Lynn Qurnell, Jim Schollaert, Kelly Spearman, Ricky Welborn, David Whitney, Sara Battaglia, Jose Cardenas, Richard Douglas, Walter "Skip" Fischer, Brian Fox, Jeffrey Gibbs, Philip Griffin, Kristopher Klaich, Carolyn Leddy, Walter Lohman, Patricia "Patti" McNerney, David Merkel, Lester Munson, Susan Oursler, Maurice Perkins, Jedidiah Royal, Kelly Siekman, and Susan Williams for the duration of this morning's tribute to Senator HELMS of North Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privilege of the floor be granted to Steven Dettelbach of the Judiciary Committee staff, as well as Elizabeth Pika who serves as a fellow in my office, during the pendency of H.R. 2215, the Department of Justice authorization conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 935 through 998, 1007, 1037, 1038, 1053, and 1054; that the nominations be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that any statements thereon be printed in the RECORD, and the Senate then resume legislative session, with the preceding all occurring without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations were considered and confirmed, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

James Franklin Jeffrey, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Albania.

James Irvin Gadsden, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Iceland.

Martin George Brennan, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Zambia.

Vicki Huddleston, Arizona, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mali.

Donald C. Johnson, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cape Verde.

Jimmy Kolker, of Missouri, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Uganda.

Gail Dennise Thomas Mathieu, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Niger.

J. Anthony Holmes, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Burkina Faso.

Aurelia E. Brazeal, of Georgia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Richard L. Baltimore III, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States to the Sultanate of Oman.

THE JUDICIARY

James Knoll Garner, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Ronald H. Clark, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Lawrence J. Block, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Charles E. Erdmann, of Colorado, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for the term of fifteen years to expire on the date prescribed by law.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Thomas Forrest Hall, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

NOMINATION OF LAWRENCE BLOCK

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, it is my sincere pleasure to rise in support of the nomination of Lawrence Block to the United States Court of Federal Claims.

Larry hardly needs an introduction, since he has served on the staff of the Judiciary Committee for the past eight years. Those of us who have worked with him know that he is an incredibly

talented lawyer whose broad legal experience spans private practice, all three branches of the Federal Government, and academia.

Larry earned a B.A. degree from New York University magna cum laude before earning his law degree from The John Marshall Law School in 1981. He began his legal career as a clerk for the Honorable Roger J. Miner, who at the time was a U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of New York and who now sits on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. After his clerkship, Larry worked as an associate in the high-powered New York office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom, where his practice included constitutional claims pertaining to Commerce Clause and commercial speech issues, as well as litigation involving financial services, mergers and acquisitions, securities, labor law, and administrative law.

After several years in private practice, Larry returned to public service, and served with distinction in the Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and Clinton Administrations. From 1986 to 1990, he worked in the U.S. Department of Justice, first in the Commercial Litigation Branch, then as Senior Attorney-Advisor in the Office of Legal Policy and Policy Development. From 1990 to 1994, Larry served as Acting General Counsel for Legal Policy and Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Legal Policy at the U.S. Department of Energy, where he spearheaded a number of complex legal projects. Despite his demanding workload, he found time to teach as an adjunct professor at George Mason University School of Law.

In 1994, I was able to persuade Larry to leave the executive branch to come work for me. I have first-hand knowledge of his legal talents, and have nothing but respect for his abilities, especially in light of the significant health-related obstacles that he has overcome. Several years ago, Larry suffered a debilitating stroke during heart surgery. Although his prognosis was grim, Larry defied the odds by making a full recovery. He is now in excellent health. I know that Larry is proud of having overcome this temporary setback, and I have no doubt that he will take to the federal bench the same perseverance that aided his recovery.

During his tenure on my staff, Larry has amply demonstrated his keen legal mind. But, just as importantly, he has shown repeatedly his fairness and willingness to listen to all sides of an issue before exercising his judgment. This is why he is a staffer admired and respected on both sides of the aisle.

I will miss Larry's sage advice and counsel, but our loss will be the gain of the Court of Claims, where I am confident that Larry will serve as an impartial judge who will follow precedent to achieve uniformity and consistency in the law. I wish him all the best.